
Verlon M. Jose
CHAIRMAN



Carla L. Johnson
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Smith, 520-907-1234

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023

MISSING PERSONS BULLETINS ISSUED FOR TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION MEMBERS THOMAS LEWIS AND PHILLIP PANCHO

Both Men Missing Since Oct. 20, Last Seen Together at Arizona State Fairgrounds

SELLS, Ariz. – Missing persons bulletins have been issued for Thomas J. Lewis and Phillip Pancho, two Tohono O'odham Nation members who were visiting the Arizona State Fair in Phoenix on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. They were last seen together at approximately 12:00 p.m. on Friday and did not meet up with their group at 2:30 p.m. for the scheduled departure.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Pancho can be described as functional, with some diminished mental capacity. They are close friends and workmates, and it is likely that they would stay together. They are carrying identification but do not have cell phones with them.

- Thomas J. Lewis is age 61 and was last wearing a camouflage baseball cap, eyeglasses, maroon shirt with a plaid long-sleeved shirt over it, and blue jeans. He is 5'1" and weighs 150 pounds.
- Phillip Pancho, age 52, was wearing blue jeans, blue flannel shirt, blue tennis shoes and baseball cap.

A joint law enforcement effort is under way to locate them, including the BIA Missing Persons Unit, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Phoenix Police Department, the Tohono O'odham Police Department (TOPD), and the Tohono O'odham Nation Office of Emergency Management. Tohono O'odham Nation Health & Human Services personnel with expertise in caring for individuals with mental disabilities are also on the ground with others assisting in the search.

If you have any information on their whereabouts, please contact TOPD Detective Mike Rivas at 520-383-3275.

Editor's Note: Attached are photos of Mr. Lewis and Mr. Pancho.

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Together We Are Stronger